

Message Text

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SENV, GW

SUBJECT: REACTOR SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, OFFSET

REF: A. BONN 1859, B. BONN 4034, C. BONN 10551 (JULY,73)

1. SUMMARY: WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY OPTIMISTIC THAT LONG-DELAYED "CONCEPT LICENSE" FOR THEIR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DESIGN WILL BE GRANTED BY FRG. THEY WOULD WELCOME USG AND EMBASSY SUPPORT, IF AND AS NEEDED, PARTICULARLY THE CREATION OF A BASIS FOR GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF THE GERMAN REGULATORY PROCESS LATER THREATEN TO RESTRICT THEIR SALES EFFORTS. WE SEE A JOINT REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM UNDER THE OFFSET AGREEMENT AS A FURTHER MEANS OF FURTHERING NON-DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF FRG NUCLEAR POWER REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SENIOR WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE BRIEFED US ABOUT
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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THEIR EFFORTS TO LICENSE NUCLEAR

POWER PLANTS IN THE FRG. WESTINGHOUSE HOPES SHORTLY TO BE GRANTED A "CONCEPT LICENSE", THE FIRST STEP IN THE REGULATORY PROCESS. THERE REMAIN A FEW TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING WELL AND WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CONCEPT LICENSE WILL BE GRANTED. THEY DO NOT NOW FORESEE A NEED FOR USG INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER.

3. THEY EXPLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THIS LICENSE IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN THE LONG PROCESS REQUIRED FOR THE SALE, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A US NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN THE FRG. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE USG AND EMBASSY SUPPORT, IF AND AS NEEDED LATER. THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A BASIS FOR US-FRG CONSULTATIONS SHOULD THERE BE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES AND DELAY.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE ENDORSED EFFECTIVE US-FRG COOPERATION IN REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY MATTERS AS THE BEST WAY TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS PROCESS COULD BECOME A BARRIER RESTRAINING THE SALES OF US NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN THE FRG. WE SEE FOUR ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM:

- A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEC-FRG MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,
- B. COMPLETION OF THE AEC-FRG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE REGULATORY ASPECTS OF REACTOR SAFETY.
- C. DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PERHAPS FINANCED IN THE US WITH GERMAN FUNDS UNDER THE OFFSET AGREEMENT (SEE REF.B).
- D. COMPLETION OF THE GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT "ENVIRONMENTAL" AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD REACTOR SAFETY REGULATION APPEAR TO BE A BARRIER IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE (SEE REF A).

5. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THEIR DRAFT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE REGULATORY AGREEMENT MENTIONED IN PARA 4A ABOVE WILL BE READY FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE AEC BY MID-APRIL. HILLENBRAND.

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